implementation of the recommendations contained in the Twenty-sixth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Chemicals & Fertilizers.

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MOTION FOR ELECTION

The Coconut Development Board, Kochi

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Sir, on behalf of Shri Sharad Pawar, I move the following Motion:

"That in pursuance of clause (e) of sub-section (4) of Section 4 of the Coconut Development Board Act, 1979 (No. 5 of 1979), read with clauses (i) and (ii) of sub-rule (1) of Rule 4 of the Coconut Development Board Rules, 1981, this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one Member from amongst the Members of the House to be a member of the Coconut Development Board."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

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MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Withdrawal of Officials from the Indian Embassy on the eve of Prime Minister's Visit to Beijing

THE LEADER OF OPPOSITION (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Sir, ordinarily, I would be loath to raise the issue that I am because I am mindful of the fact that during the hon. Prime Minister's official visits overseas, we ought to desist from saying or doing anything that would mar the visit. But the event itself has, I believe, so compromised the visit that I now cannot but submit what I have to with the expectation that the Government would take due note of it.

Sir, on the eve of the Prime Minister's visit to Beijing, a most unusual development took place which is that the Deputy Chief of Mission plus two officers holding the post of Minister, Science and Technology and also the Counsellor in the same Department, were withdrawn. This is extremely disturbing. It is rare and, by itself, it carries a tale which I do not have to recount here. But it is a very significant lesson that we have to learn from this because if this has had to be done on the eve of the Prime Minister's visit, then it could not be more serious. Also, it has many ramifications and aspects that need very deep reflection, both by the Prime Minister's Office as also by the Government. I will desist from saying any further, leaving at that in the hope, Sir, that somebody from the Government will stand up and be counted.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): Sir, the hon. Leader of Opposition has raised this issue.

I would like to say categorically that the transfer of officials, which is a purely administrative matter, has nothing to do with the visit of the Prime Minister. The hon. Leader of Opposition has been the External Affairs Minister. I would like to inform him, through you, that the Deputy Chief of Mission stood posted as the Deputy Chief of Mission in Rome. His successor was appointed and the successor is very much in Beijing. He had joined before the Prime Minister's visit.

With regard to the Minister of Science and Technology, I would like to inform Jaswant Singhji that there is no post as Minister, Science and Technology in the Indian Mission in Beijing. So, what you have said, I think, maybe, is based on incorrect information. There are routine transfers, postings which are not connected with the Prime Ministerial visit. And the Prime Minister is not on a bilateral visit; the Prime Minister is there to attend ASEM, Asia-Europe Summit Meeting. I hope that the doubts, if there were any, stand clarified and the hon. Leader of Opposition, being a senior and experienced person that he is, should not raise storm in a tea cup because that is all what it is.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I will desist from pressing any further but I am amused to homilies like storm in a tea cup. I am aware of the details of this matter, but if I desist from saying any further, it is out of consideration of the sensitivity of the issue.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Sir, with particular reference to China, the Chinese have. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Naik, leave it. Please sit down. Now, Government Resolution; Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to move.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Government Resolutions.

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GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS

(i) Approving Notification No. 78/2008 - Customs dated 13th June, 2008 to amend the second schedule to the Customs Tariff Act; and (ii) Approving Notification No. 39/2008 - Central Excise, dated 13th June, 2008 to amend the first schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Sir, I beg to move the following Resolutions:-

"(i) In pursuance of sub-section(2) of section 8 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, read with sub-section (3) of section 7 of the said Act, this House hereby approves of Notification No.78/2008-Customs dated 13th June, 2008 [G.S.R.457(E) dated the 13th June, 2008] which seeks to amend the Second Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, so as to increase export duty leviable on iron ores, all sorts, falling under Heading No. 11 of the said Second Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975) from Rs.300 per tonne to 20% ad valorem.'

In pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985, this House hereby approves of Notification No.39/2008-Central Excise, dated the 13th June, 2008 [G.S.R.460(E), dated the 13th June, 2008] which seeks to amend the First Schedule to the